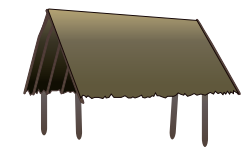




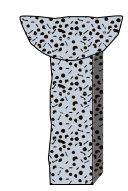
Getting to know our American Memorial Park: *A cultural and natural treasure*



Carolinian culture



In the early 1800s, the Caroline Islands suffered a major typhoon, prompting some islanders to resettle elsewhere. Large *proas* (canoes) filled with refugees navigated north to Saipan. The village of Arabwal was established by them on the western shores of the current Garapan area.



Chamorro culture



More than 3500 years before the arrival of the Spanish, Chamorro people settled the Pacific islands now called the Marianas. They carved ancient reef limestone *lattes* (tall support columns) so their *palapalas* (thatched and grass-woven huts) were raised well above ground.



Remnant wetland



The mangrove forest and wetland in the park are home to crabs, birds, and young fish. Mangroves, especially suited to grow in salt water, stabilize the shoreline, absorb nutrients, and filter sediments from runoff coming from the land.



Bird refuge



A few species of forest and wetland birds found only in the Mariana Islands are found here in the park. Some may face possible extinction, including the Commonwealth bird, the Mariana fruit dove (*Ptilinopus roseicapilla*).

Remembering our history

"American Memorial Park will serve as the surrogate memory and living legacy for future generations to comprehend and appreciate the sacrifices, ordeals, and lessons of this segment of World War II history."

— John Jarvis, Regional Director
NPS Pacific West Region, 2005.



Did you know that ranger-led tours of the park are available for individuals, families, or school groups? Stop by the American Memorial Park Visitor Center for more information.

Please respect this park by helping us keep it clean and preserve it for future generations.

